

## Trade Webliography: Web Sites for Trade Related Research

### Part I: Where to Start Looking:

General searches on Trade issues should always begin with the latest generation search engines that actively evaluate and assess the quality of the web sites included in their databases. The best of these search engines are: Librarian's Index to the Internet <<http://lii.org>>, the Internet Public Library <<http://www.ipl.org>>, InfoMine <<http://infomine.ucr.edu>>, AcademicInfo <http://academicinfo.com> and the WWW Virtual Libraries Page <http://vlib.org/Overview.html>> All of these sites maintain their own internal search engines. Typing in "Trade" in any of these search engines will yield the best and most authoritative Internet sites on Trade issues.

As an example, navigate to the InfoMine site. Click on the Section titled "Business and Economics." Once in this section, navigate to the very bottom of the screen, look for "Browse Options," go to Subjects, and then click on "LCSH" (Library of Congress Subject Headings.) Once you click here, you will discover an array of the best Web pages, arranged alphabetically. Click on the letter "T" and scroll down until you find "Trade." Clicking on the subject heading "Trade" will immediately reward you with some of the best web sites available on this topic. Notice the other variations for the term Trade (these are also "clickable",) and also keep in mind that you can use the very same technique to locate the best Web Pages on any other topic you wish to investigate. It is important to note that a number of professional librarians, with considerable expertise in a given subject area, actively evaluate and assess all Web Sites before they become a part of the InfoMine database. This is equally true for all the other search engines mentioned above.

A more specific search engine is provided by the Law Librarian Legal Exchange <<http://www.llrx.com>> recently voted as one of the 10 Best Web sites of the decade, an accolade this web site richly deserves. LLRX.com is solely devoted to legal, economic, international statistics and world trade issues. What it offers is some of the best bibliographies, articles, reviews and how-to guides available anywhere on the web. The areas it covers are law, economics, trade, statistics, and overviews of the legal systems of many countries, as written by professional researchers and/or librarians, especially Law Librarians. LLRX offers a search engine located on the left hand side of the Web Page: type in "Trade" or "Statistics" and you will be rewarded with some of the best professional overviews found on the web anywhere.

For example, typing in the word “Trade,” I easily found these valuable overviews:

[LLRX.com - Update to Guide to International Trade Law Sources on the Internet](#)

[LLRX.com - Update to WTO/GATT Research](#)

[LLRX.com - Researching U.S. Treaties and Agreements](#)

[LLRX -- ResearchWire: Unearthing Statistical Data on Internet: Effective Research Strategies](#)

The most comprehensive web site for Latin America as a whole, with valuable links to country information, economies, government, education, and sustainable development resources (among many other topics) is LANIC: the Latin American Information Network, hosted by the University of Texas at Austin. The Web Site address is: <<http://lanic.utexas.edu/>> and is available in Spanish and Portuguese versions.

OPIC, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, maintains an Investor's Information Gateway Country Link Database providing an impressive gateway site for Latin American countries with a wealth of aggregated data and country information:  
<http://www.opic.gov/GeneralOPIC/ctrylist.htm>

Finally, FITA (The Federation of International Trade Organizations) provides one of the best overviews available anywhere for International Trade issues. The Web Site includes information on Trade Statistics, International Trade Organizations, Legal Resources for International Business, Trade Issues, etc. Some of the information provided is available in Spanish. The Web Site address is:

<http://fita.org/webindex/index.html> You will need to register to gain access to the site, but registration is free.

Part II: U.S. Government Sites and U.S. Policy:

Perhaps as good place as any to begin looking for U.S. Information on Trade as well as official Trade Data is the International Trade Administration's (ITA) website <<http://www.ita.doc.gov>> This content-rich site offers daily press releases on trade issues as well as a list of upcoming trade missions.

However, the true value of this site for researchers is the U.S. Foreign Trade Highlights <<http://www.ita.doc.gov/td/industry/otea/usfth>> and the U.S. International Trade Summary, offering Trade by Country and Trade by Sector <<http://www.ita.doc.gov/td/industry/otea/usftd/>>.

Clicking on the top left corner of the ITA Site reveals TradeStats Express <<http://tse.export.gov>>, offering the latest annual trade data with two distinct options: National Trade Data, for overall U.S. merchandise exports, imports, and trade balances and State Export Data, giving much of the same information, but on a state-by-state basis for state and regional exports of merchandise.

The USTR Web Site <<http://www.ustr.gov/index.html>> is the official web site of the U.S. Trade Representative and, as such, offers daily press briefings of the latest trade developments. This office is responsible for developing and coordinating U.S. international trade, commodity; directing investment policy and leading or directing negotiations with other countries on all aspects of international trade. The Web Site, therefore, includes abundant links to recently concluded Trade Negotiations. The USTR publishes annually the Trade Policy Agenda, including a review (found in Annex III) of all current trade agreements. The 2004 Annual Trade Policy Agenda is available at: <http://www.ustr.gov/reports/2004.html>

Extensive Country Market information is the province of the Export.gov web site <<http://www.export.gov/marketresearch.html>> offering an in-depth discussion of how to conduct country-by-country market research for a range of products. An important link here is to Trade Agreements and Statistics. The Trade Agreements section helps exporters understand binding agreements between the United States and its trading partners covering manufactured products and services. The Trade Statistics link offers a valuable compendium of U.N. Statistics of Imports and Exports of U.S. Commodities, arranged in one of four ways:

[Country-by-country imports by commodity](#)

(Example: Australian imports of soap, tires, etc.)

[Country exports by commodity](#)

(Example: German exports of soap, computers, etc.)

[Importers by commodity](#)

(Example: countries importing cardboard, auto parts, etc.)

### [Exporters by commodity](#)

(Example: countries exporting cardboard, auto parts, etc.)

Other statistics on this site include U.S. Agricultural Trade Statistics, U.S. Trade and Industry Data, and Current and Historical Trade Statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau.

For U.S. businessmen and women who wish to research overseas markets and learn of International Trade events (domestic and overseas), the official site of the U.S. Foreign Commercial Service is important <[http://www.export.gov/comm\\_svc/](http://www.export.gov/comm_svc/)> The Market Research Library included in this site allows anyone to research market and industry conditions all over the world.

OFFICIAL U.S. POLICY POSITIONS/STATEMENTS: It is crucial that the researcher know how to locate official U.S. Policy statements on trade with Latin American countries, and, additionally be able to find the specific texts of official agreements and treaties.

Official U.S. Policy is the realm of USINFO, the official site of the International Information Programs of the U.S. State Department <<http://usinfo.state.gov/regional/ar/>>

This site is also available in Spanish and has the texts of speeches by U.S. Officials on any aspect of the rich bilateral relationship with Latin America. The Region in Focus and the Issues in Focus are worth their weight in gold. These sites will help the Researcher gain an important *contextual understanding* of the issues involved behind trade negotiations.

Regional Latin American trade issues, including the Free Trade Area of the Americas, is amply covered by this very attractive website:

<http://usinfo.state.gov/regional/ar/trade/#1> This web site also includes substantial resources in Spanish.

Besides official texts and speeches by U.S. officials, the site offers *extensive information and documentation* (in Spanish, Portuguese, French) on the Free Trade Area of the Americas and the Summit of the Americas. These two web sites offer full texts of treaties, documents, declarations, drafts and all other official documents.

Specific information on FTAA is available at <[http://www.ftaa-alca.org/alca\\_e.asp](http://www.ftaa-alca.org/alca_e.asp)> and offers a convenient link to all FTAA countries. For each country, there are substantive links to FTAA Negotiating

Themes, and also links to what the government of each country is doing to protect Intellectual Property Rights. Market Access Sources and Official Government Sources round out this impressive website. This site also has substantial resources in Spanish.

All the Summits of the Americas, their texts, documents, agreements, official documents, are covered by:

<<http://usinfo.state.gov/espanol/cumbre/>> There are links to related issues of Economic Growth, International Security Issues and Human Rights. What is perhaps most valuable about this site is the convenient links it provides to all U.S. Government Agencies involved (or in any way concerned) with the negotiations at these Summits and also offers links to the Web Sites of related non-governmental agencies, such as the IMF and the World Bank.

The Embassy of the United States of America in Caracas, Venezuela also maintains a Web site in Spanish on Free Trade issues that serve as a very convenient collection of all-important documents on this topic, with related links to Summits, Ministerials, texts, drafts, treaties, and signature countries. It functions as a “one-stop shop” for free trade issues for the Americas and maintains, additionally, a database of speeches of USG officials on trade issues. The Web site is constantly updated/maintained and is found at: <<http://www.embajadausa.org.ve/alca.html>>

Talking about Trade Issues, another comprehensive site offering information about hemispheric integration and trade trends is offered by *SICE*: the OAS’s Foreign Trade Information System, and is available in the four official languages of Latin America: French, Spanish, Portuguese, English. The Web Site does a superlative job in discussing the critical trade issues: Anti-Dumping, E-Commerce, Intellectual Property Rights, among select others. The site links to Articles, Studies and Speeches, ideal for the researcher who wants to dig deeper, and offers specific Trade Related Links and also gives Trade Data by country. <<http://www.sice.oas.org/datae.asp>>

Perhaps the most valuable aspect of this web site is that it offers the full text of all trade instruments and treaties between the U.S and Latin American countries: one can easily locate Trade Agreements by Type of Agreement and Trade Agreements by Signatory Country. No other web site offers these convenient features.

Official reports and press releases concerning the Free Trade Area of the Americas is available on the Office of NAFTA and Inter-American Affairs Web Site < <http://www.mac.doc.gov/ftaa2005/>>

Confused by all the trade terminology contained in these web sites? Welcome to the Club! An educational site providing a specific glossary for trade concepts is: *The Language of Trade* (an IIP Publication) available at: <http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/trade/homepage/htm>> Trade Statistics for the FTAA are easily found through the *Hemispheric Database for the Americas* at <<http://ftaa-hdb.iadb.org/>> Statistics are available in five categories: Trade Balance, Analysis by Product, Analysis by Category, by Principal Partner, and by Principal Products.

The Web Site offers a search feature and again, is in the four principal languages of Latin America: Spanish, Portuguese, French, English.

Remember that general trade statistics are found through the <http://tse.export.gov> site, both National and State Trade Data can be found here.

Other Web Sites giving statistical information on Trade and/or providing full texts of treaties or other official documents is the FITA Site (Federation of International Trade Associations) <<http://www.fita.org/webindex/>>

The Web Site offers other specific Resources for International Trade. Also, the Institute for the Integration of Latin America and the Caribbean <<http://www.iadb.org/intal/>> provides materials in both Spanish, Portuguese, and English with access to all the treaties, integration instruments and specific databases and publications.

Finally, as excellent background material, the Foreign Press Center Home Page <<http://www.fpc.state.gov>> is superlative. It contains many of the latest Congressional Service Reports (CRS) about Trade issues. CRS reports do an outstanding job of summarizing what is known about the behind the scenes negotiations, the US stance, as well as the reactions of specific Latin American countries to pressing trade issues. An example of an excellent CRS Report on Trade is: [A Free Trade Area of the Americas: Status of Negotiations and Major Policy Issues](#) or [Agricultural Trade in a U.S.-Central American Free Trade Agreement \(CAFTA\)](#)

### Part III: Academic Sources:

*One little-known hint:* University Library Web Pages often offer to their privileged students and professors valuable hints on how to conduct research that is not well known to the average researcher. Two good examples: Baker Business Library, Harvard University, offers a series of cool guides to Research Trade and Related Issues:

<http://www.hbsworkingknowledge.hbs.edu/topics/notebook/>

Columbia University law Library has produced an electronic finding guide to International law resources which may be found at:

[http://www.law.columbia.edu/library/Research\\_Guides/international\\_trade](http://www.law.columbia.edu/library/Research_Guides/international_trade)

Other International Law databases are collected in another finding guide:

[http://www.law.columbia.edu/library/electronic/index\\_db](http://www.law.columbia.edu/library/electronic/index_db)

Marquette University Libraries, not to be outdone, also offers its own tips, tricks and hints of how to conduct Business and Trade Research

<http://www.mu.edu/library/sites/business.html>

The section on International Trade is especially comprehensive and noteworthy.

The Global Trade Negotiations Home Page at Harvard University (part of their Center for International Development) offers a guide to Trade and Trade News <<http://www.cid.harvard.edu/cidtrade/>>

Here one can find Trade News: with an intriguing and highly informative selection of recent news articles; Issue Areas (Agriculture, Anti-Dumping, Environment, Textiles and Clothing, Market Access, Transparency, among many others;) Resources (Compilations of recent research papers on all aspects of Trade, written by the most informed experts, links to international organizations, information about the principal researchers in the field, and links to research institutes and data resources.)

What is particularly valuable about the Harvard University Global Trade Negotiations Research Page is the Highlights feature, allowing researchers to read some of the best feature stories of professionals who frequently comment on trade issues. For example, check out this featured report: [Gender Issues and International Trade](#)



The Stern School of Business at New York University <<http://pages.stern.nyu.edu/~nroubini/asia/>> has created a “Global Macroeconomic and Financial Policy Site” which offers the latest editorials on trade from newspapers and specialized publications. There are also current writings by researchers at international organizations working on trade issues and Current Policy Topics. The best academic writings on trade issues is available under the link [International Trade](#) and is invaluable for researchers wanting a better understanding of the issues involved.

Michigan State University’s globalEdge <sup>TM</sup> <<http://globaledge.msu.edu/ibrd/ibrd.asp>> is another excellent academic resource. A specific feature that I love about this site is “Country Insights.” Country Insights “provides current information on the business climate, news, history, political structure, economic landscape, and relevant statistical data for 196 countries. Powerful features such as comparing countries using multiple statistical indicators and ranking countries based on a selected statistical indicator are available.

A rich collection of country-specific international business and trade links adds to the vast collection of information. The Trade Portal at the bottom of this Web Site offers Trade Tutorials, for those thirsting to learn more; the best sites for Trade Law, and Company Directories are among a few of the selections.

Purdue University’s Web Site offers the full text of specific working papers on Trade written by the leading academic and policy experts, <[http://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/resources/working\\_papers.asp](http://www.gtap.agecon.purdue.edu/resources/working_papers.asp)> while the Edwin Ginn Library of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University <[http://fletcher.tufts.edu/inter\\_resources/intertradelaw.htm](http://fletcher.tufts.edu/inter_resources/intertradelaw.htm)> excels in its coverage of international Trade Law, with full access to the complete texts of Trade Instruments and Treaties. Specifically look at [LATCO Tools of the Trade](#) in this site, which contains comprehensive information on trade with Latin America, with useful links to country-specific as well as regionally relevant business and trade sites.

The Latin American and Caribbean Center of Florida International University maintains a quasi-official web Site for the Summit of the Americas <<http://www.americasnet.net/>> The Web Site touches on four concerns of previous summits: Trade and Integration; Democracy and Governance, Sustainable Development, and Human Security.



The North-South Center at the University of Miami <<http://www.miami.edu/nsc/>> has a Program Research Area dealing with trade and offers specific publications written by economists and trade experts on the most pressing trade issues. One example of a free publication available on this site is: [A Resurgent MERCOSUR: Confronting Economic Crises and Negotiating Trade Agreements](#).

Finally, the Foreign Government Information Web Page from the University of Colorado Libraries has a specific section on Trade Sites <<http://www-libraries.colorado.edu/ps/gov/us/trade.htm>> with links to Trade Resources from the U.S. Government and International Sources. The Web Site includes Trade Statistics, Trade Law, Trade Agreements, Country Commercial Guides, Guides to Exporting, and Market Information. The site is unusually thorough and very well organized.

#### Part IV: Think Tank Resources

Think Tanks produce specific studies on trade; while they often agree on the benefits of international trade and the economic advantages of open markets, at times, Think Tanks, as independent organizations, may refute or argue against official USG positions on trade. It is nonetheless important that researchers be familiar with the writings of these Think Tanks so they won't be caught off guard by arguments often first espoused here.

A comprehensive listing of all Think Tanks is provided by this Web Site: <http://www.nira.go.jp/ice/nwdtt/index.html#1> -- there is an index by country as well as by name.

Specific Think Tanks that regularly write on Trade issues include: The Center for Strategic and International Studies <<http://www.csis.org>> CSIS has an Americas Program <<http://csis.org/americas/index.htm>> that maintains a MERCOSUR Focus Group.

The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <<http://www.ceip.org>> maintains a separate section on "Trade, Equity and Development" with specific links to studies and papers. Two examples of the invaluable research going into their research studies: [Trade and Labor Standards: A Strategy for Developing Countries](#) and [Free trade: Win-win?](#)

The very pro-American Association of American Chambers of Commerce in Latin America maintains a Web Site of policy positions and official texts with fantastic background and briefing materials and links to business and trade resources for Latin America at <<http://www.aaccla.org/policy/detail.asp?PolicyIssueID=45>>

Similarly, the Council of the Americas

<<http://www.counciloftheamericas.org/coa/advocacy/ftaa.html>> provides congressional testimony and studies about trade issues with Latin America.

The Center for Economic Policy and Research <<http://www.cepr.net>> tends to be a bit more wary of official policies but nonetheless provides essential links to a series of current reporting on U.S. – Latin American trade. Specific links are provided for: Globalization, IMF/World Bank, World Trade Organization, FTAA and Intellectual Property and Patents.

## Part V: Trade Law

Besides the trade law sites provided by LLRX and the Trade Portal embedded in the globalEDGE site (both sites received extensive commentaries in previous pages) the *Electronic Information System for International Law* maintains a specific section just for International Trade Law:

<[http://www.eisil.org/index.php?sid=673475005&t=sub\\_pages&cat=473](http://www.eisil.org/index.php?sid=673475005&t=sub_pages&cat=473)>

and has a separate page for International Economic Law:

<[http://www.eisil.org/index.php?sid=673475005&cat=19&t=sub\\_pages](http://www.eisil.org/index.php?sid=673475005&cat=19&t=sub_pages)>

Warning: the above pages are designed more for experts wanting to delve into the specifics of legal research and will probably not be easy reading for those without formal legal training. The EISIL web sites is, nonetheless, excellent and very comprehensive.

The National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade is a fee based (subscription based) database which requires a password and login account. Nonetheless, there are enough free materials available to make this a worthwhile addition. The What's New section includes drafts of trade treaties and instruments and new trade oriented legislation and is updated regularly. Worth a look. <http://www.natlaw.com/index.htm>

## Part VI: Trade Statistics

A number of sites have already been mentioned for Trade Statistics in the preceding pages. To those sites, I wish to add one that provides statistical information on just about any subject under the sun. It comes from the University of Michigan Documents Center and many researchers are enthusiastic about this Web Page:

<<http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/statsnew.html>> “Statistical Resources on the Web.”

There is a separate section for Foreign Trade, with US Census Bureau figures, US Exports, US Imports, International Trade by Commodity, etc.

This is a very comprehensive site with links to the most relevant statistical gathering agencies around the world. It never ceases to impress.

The International Trade Centre

<<http://www.intracen.org/menus/countries.htm>> gives trade statistics aggregates. Country specific information is available at this site: <<http://www.intracen.org/menus/countries.htm>> and provides an index to Internet resources covering various aspects of international trade such as: country profiles, market access conditions, contact information, market news, etc.

The Trade Development Alliance of Greater Seattle

<[http://www.cityofseattle.net/tda/trade\\_info/TBintressamerweb.htm](http://www.cityofseattle.net/tda/trade_info/TBintressamerweb.htm)> has additionally built a trade related site just for South America that gives access to country and statistical information for each country.

The RFE Site (Resources for Economists) <<http://rfe.org>>, (the official Home Page of the American Economic Association) maintains a separate site just for World and non-US Data. Here you can find market conditions for specific countries, economic conditions, intelligence reports, risk estimates, with helpful links to statistics and international organizations. This is one of the most comprehensive sites I have seen and ranks favorably with the University of Michigan in providing access to statistical data not easily found elsewhere

<<http://rfe.org/Data/World/index.html>> The RFE Site also produces a separate page for U.S. Macro and Regional Data <<http://rfe.org/Data/USMacro/index.html>>

Every year, the World Trade Organization publishes International Trade Statistics, the latest one being 2003. The statistics are very comprehensive, covering every nation and region and trade by sector. The list of tables and charts is extensive. Perhaps the most valuable section of the report is its lengthy discussion of long term trends in world trade. Read the 2003 Report at:

[http://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/statis\\_e/its2003\\_e/its2003\\_e.pdf](http://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/its2003_e/its2003_e.pdf)

Another excellent source of trade statistics is the US CENSUS REPORT on U.S. TRADE, IMPORTS, EXPORTS, BALANCE, BY COUNTRY, detailing imports, exports and balances for key countries of the world. Detailed statistics may be found at: <<http://www.census.gov/foreign-trade/balance>>

USITC Trade Data Web is another excellent site offering specific trade statistics. Let's say you're looking for a statistic like the total U.S. vehicle

exports to the Bahamas in 2003. You can find that at the [USITC Interactive Tariff and Trade DataWeb](http://dataweb.usitc.gov/) (<http://dataweb.usitc.gov/>).

This site provides international trade statistics and U.S. tariff data free of charge. You simply select a category at the home page, then fine-tune your search, and you'll get a customized report that you can read and download. You can also create and save customized country and product lists for future re-use. International trade data are available for years from 1989 to the present on a monthly, quarterly, annual, or year-to-date basis, and you can retrieve them in a number of classification systems, including the Harmonized Tariff Schedule (HTS), the Standard International Trade Classification (SITC), or the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). Finally, you can access current U.S. tariff information at this site.

And, don't forget that the United Nations has put together a Web Site containing Key Documents on Trade and Development: [http://www.un.org/partners/civil\\_society/docs/d-trade.htm](http://www.un.org/partners/civil_society/docs/d-trade.htm) This excellent web site has a list of multilateral treaties deposited with the Secretary General, Global Trade Statistics and a list of key documents on trade, development and statistical studies of countries around the world. Put this web site on the top of your research arsenal!

## Part VII: Understanding Trade Issues

Trade is an inherently difficult concept for non-economists to truly understand. Trade is a complex interchange of economic interactions between two partners over time. But, to truly understand the dynamics involved, one must understand the economies of each partner country, their cultural conditions, the banking rules and regulations that set the stage for national economies, their educational system: how citizens understand trade and its benefits; and how the government of each country, vis-à-vis their ideological posturing, promotes or does not promote trade. If one has advanced degrees in economy or political science, perhaps this would be easy. For those who don't, where can you turn?

Fortunately, there are a variety of online resources.

The best of these is the MIT (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) website on distance education <http://ocw.mit.edu> For example, go to the Sloan School of Management Web Page <http://ocw.mit.edu/OcwWeb/Sloan-School-of-Management/index.htm> and look at such related online courses as:

[Global Markets, National Politics and the Competitive Advantage of Firms Spring 2003](#)

[Global Entrepreneurship Lab Fall 2002](#) and  
[Government Regulation of Industry Spring 2003](#)

The Web Site is growing with new courses every month. Each course has the lecture notes of the professor teaching the class, class assignments and projects, links to related readings (some online) and a professionally written webliography for those who wish to pursue the topic further.

The International Economics Study Center at George Washington University <<http://internationalecon.com/>> also offers several online courses:

[International Trade Theory & Policy Analysis](#)

[International Trade Syllabus](#)

[Trade & Finance Syllabus](#)

[The Fair Trade Page](#)

Finally, the University of Texas World Lecture Hall maintains another excellent distance education site with many of their courses online and in full-text format. Check out: <http://www.utexas/world/lecture>, click on Browse by Area and then choose Economics or Business Administration. Many relevant courses may be found in either of these sections.

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